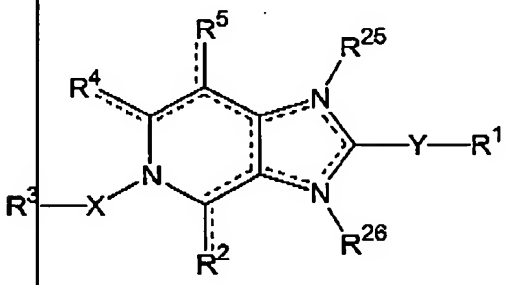
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) Method for treatment or prevention of a viral infection comprising the step of administering an effective amount of an imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative of formula (Z), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



(Z)

wherein:

- the dotted lines represent an optional double bond, provided that no two double bonds are adjacent to one another, and that the dotted lines represent at least 3, optionally 4, double bonds;
- R^1 is selected from hydrogen; aryl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6; heterocyclic ring unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6; and C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6;

- Y is selected from the group consisting of a single bond; O; $S(O)_m$; NR^{11}; and a divalent, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon group optionally including one or more heteroatom(s) in the main chain, said heteroatom(s) being selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N (such as C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene, C_{2-6} alkynylene, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-O-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$, $-S-(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-S-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$, $-NR^{11}-(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-NR^{11}-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$and C_{3-10} cycloalkylidene);

- each R^2 and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; halo; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^9$; $C(=S)R^9$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyloxy; C_{3-10} cycloalkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring; or, when one of R^{25} or R^{26} is different from hydrogen, either R^2 or R^4 is selected from (=O), (=S), and ($=NR^{27}$);

- X is selected from the group consisting of a divalent, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon group optionally including one or more heteroatoms in the main chain (provided that the heteroatom is not linked to N of the imidazopyridyl ring), said heteroatoms being selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N (such as C_{1-6} alkylene, (for example -CH_2-, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2$), $-(CH_2)_{2-4}-O-(CH_2)_{2-4}-$, $-(CH_2)_{2-4}-S-(CH_2)_{2-4}-$, $-(CH_2)_{2-4}-NR^{10}-(CH_2)_{2-4}-$, C_{3-10} cycloalkylidene, C_{2-6} alkenylene (such as $-CH=CH-CH_2-$), C_{2-6} alkynylene);

- m is any integer from 0 to 2;

- R^3 is selected from the group consisting of aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; aryl-NR^{10}-; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, aryl-NR^{10}-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with one or more R^{17}; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, oxycycloalkyl or thiocycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl with the proviso that the double bond cannot be adjacent to a nitrogen; and H with the proviso that if X is an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene, then X comprises at least 5 carbon atoms;
- R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; halo; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^9$; $C(=S)R^9$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyloxy; C_{3-10} cycloalkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring;
- each R^6 and R^{17} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl or C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; halo; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^{18}$; $C(=S)R^{18}$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; arylalkyloxy (optionally a oxybenzyl); arylalkylthio (optionally a benzylthio); 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, arylalkyl, arylalkyloxy (optionally oxybenzyl), arylalkylthio (optionally benzylthio), 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring, or C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl is optionally substituted with 1 or more R^{19};

- each R^7 and R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{1-18} alkenyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring; $C(=O)R^{12}$; $C(=S)R^{12}$; and an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof; alternatively, R^7 and R^8, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, combine to form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;
- each R^9 and R^{18} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; OH; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; $NR^{15}R^{16}$; aryl; and an amino acid residue linked through an amino group thereof;
- each R^{10} and R^{11} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; aryl; $C(=O)R^{12}$; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring; and an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof;
- R^{12} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; and an amino acid residue linked through an amino group thereof;
- each R^{15} and R^{16} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; and an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof.

- R^{19} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy, preferably C_{1-6} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkynyl; halo; OH; CN; NO_2; $NR^{20}R^{21}$; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^{22}$; $C(=S)R^{22}$; SH; $C(=O)N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $N(H)S(O)(O)(C_{1-6}$ alkyl); aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; and arylalkyl; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, arylalkyl may be substituted with one or more halo, particularly a phenyl substituted with 1-2 halo; hydroxyalkyl; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring each unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or more halogens;
- each R^{20} and R^{21} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; $C(=O)R^{12}$; and $C(=S)R^{12}$;
- R^{22} is independently selected from H; OH; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; $NR^{23}R^{24}$; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; and C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl;
- each R^{23} and R^{24} is independently selected from the group the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{2-3} alkyl, wherein C_{2-3} alkyl taken together with N of R^{22} can form a saturated heterocycle, which heterocycle is optionally substituted with OH or aryl or an amino acid residue;
- each R^{25} or R^{26} is absent or is selected from the group consisting of of H, C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl (such as cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, C_{5-10} bicycloalkyl or adamantyl); C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl; (C_{3-8} cycloalkyl)-C_{1-3} alkyl; aryl, such as phenyl; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring, such as pyridyl; alkylaryl, such as benzyl; and each of said C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl, (C_{3-8} cycloalkyl)-C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{5-10} bicycloalkyl, adamantyl, phenyl, pyridyl and benzyl is optionally substituted with 1-4 of each of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo, CH_2OH, oxybenzyl, and OH; and heterocyclic ring having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, preferably a saturated heterocyclic ring wherein the heteroatoms are S, S(O), or $S(O)_2$

separated from the imidazopyridyl ring nitrogen atom by at least 2 heterocyclic ring carbon atoms., provided that either R^{25} or R^{26} is hydrogen, typically R^{25} or R^{26} is cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl; provided that if the compound is substituted at R^{25} or R^{26}, either R^2 or R^4 is selected from (=O), (=S), and (=NR^{27}); and

- R^{27} is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-18} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, (C_{3-10} cycloalkyl)-C_{1-6} alkyl; aryl; and arylalkyl, such as benzyl;
- or an isomer or solvate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said viral infection is an infection of a virus belonging to the family of the Flaviviridae.

25. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said viral infection is an infection of a hepatitis-C virus.

26. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said viral infection is an infection of a virus belonging to the family of the Picornaviridae.

27. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said viral infection is an infection of a Coxsackie virus.

28. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the effective amount of imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative is suitable for separate, combined or sequential administration comprising the steps:

(a) the administration of an effective amount of one or more compound(s) of formula (Z), as defined in claim 23; and

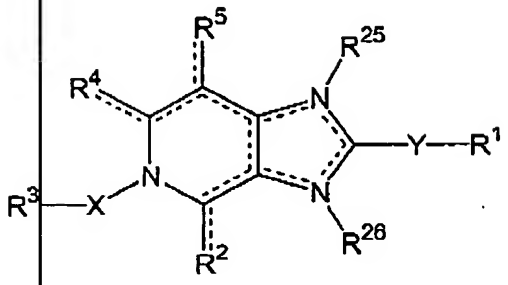
(b) the administration of an effective amount of one or more compound(s) effective in the treatment or prophylaxis of viral infections, including Flaviviral or Picornaviral

enzyme inhibitors,in respective proportions such as to provide a synergistic effect against said viral infection.

29. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein the effective amount of imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative is suitable for administration orally, intranasally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intradermally, intravenously, intra-arterially, parenterally or by catheterization.

30. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein said imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivativeis selected from the group consisting of:
5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;
5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-pyridinyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;
5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(1-naphthalenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;
5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-[(phenylthio)methyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;
5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;
5-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;
5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;
2-(2-Fluorophenyl)-5-[(4-iodophenyl)methyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine; and
5-[[4-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine.

31. (New) An imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative of formula (A):



(A)

wherein:

- the dotted lines represent an optional double bond, provided that no two double bonds are adjacent to one another, and that the dotted lines represent at least 3, optionally 4, double bonds;
- R^1 is selected from hydrogen; aryl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6; heterocyclic ring unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6; and C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6;
- Y is selected from the group consisting of a single bond; O; $S(O)_m$; NR^{11}; and a divalent, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted C_1.C_{10} hydrocarbon group optionally including one or more heteroatom(s) in the main chain, said heteroatom(s) being selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N (such as C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene, C_{2-6} alkynylene, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-O-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$, $-S-(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-S-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$, $-NR^{11}-(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-NR^{11}-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$and C_{3-10} cycloalkylidene);

- each R^2 and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; halo; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^9$; $C(=S)R^9$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyloxy; C_{3-10} cycloalkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring; or, when one of R^{25} or R^{26} is different from hydrogen, either R^2 or R^4 is selected from (=O), (=S), and ($=NR^{27}$);

- X is selected from the group consisting of a divalent, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted C_1-C_{10} hydrocarbon group optionally including one or more heteroatoms in the main chain (provided that the heteroatom is not linked to N of the imidazopyridyl ring), said heteroatoms being selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N (such as C_{1-6} alkylene, (for example -CH_2-, -$CH(CH_3)$-, -CH_2-CH_2-, -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-, -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2), -$(CH_2)_{2-4}$-O-$(CH_2)_{2-4}$-, -$(CH_2)_{2-4}$-S-$(CH_2)_{2-4}$-, -$(CH_2)_{2-4}$-NR^{10}-$(CH_2)_{2-4}$-, C_{3-10} cycloalkylidene, C_{2-6} alkenylene (such as -CH=CH-CH_2-), C_{2-6} alkynylene);

- m is any integer from 0 to 2;

- R^3 is selected from the group consisting of aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; aryl-NR^{10}-; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, aryl-NR^{10}-, 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with one or more R^{17}; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, oxycycloalkyl or thiocycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl with the proviso that the double bond cannot be adjacent to a nitrogen; and H with the proviso that if X is an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene, then X comprises at least 5 carbon atoms;

- R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; halo; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8;

OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^9$; $C(=S)R^9$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyloxy; C_{3-10} cycloalkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring;

- each R^6 and R^{17} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl or C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; halo; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^{18}$; $C(=S)R^{18}$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; arylalkyloxy (optionally a oxybenzyl); arylalkylthio (optionally a benzylthio); 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, arylalkyl, arylalkyloxy (optionally oxybenzyl), arylalkylthio (optionally benzylthio), 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring, or C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl is optionally substituted with 1 or more R^{19};

- each R^7 and R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{1-18} alkenyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring; $C(=O)R^{12}$; $C(=S)\ R^{12}$; and an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof; alternatively, R^7 and R^8, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, combine to form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring;

- each R^9 and R^{18} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; OH; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; $NR^{15}R^{16}$; aryl; and an amino acid residue linked through an amino group thereof;

- each R^{10} and R^{11} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; aryl; $C(=O)R^{12}$; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring; and an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof;

- R^{12} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; and an amino acid residue linked through an amino group thereof;
- each R^{15} and R^{16} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; and an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof.
- R^{19} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy, preferably C_{1-6} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkynyl; halo; OH; CN; NO_2; $NR^{20}R^{21}$; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^{22}$; $C(=S)R^{22}$; SH; $C(=O)N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $N(H)S(O)(O)(C_{1-6}$ alkyl); aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; and arylalkyl; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, arylalkyl may be substituted with one or more halo, particularly a phenyl substituted with 1-2 halo; hydroxyalkyl; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring each unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or more halogens;
- each R^{20} and R^{21} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; $C(=O)R^{12}$; and $C(=S)R^{12}$;
- R^{22} is independently selected from H; OH; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; $NR^{23}R^{24}$; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; and C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl;
- each R^{23} and R^{24} is independently selected from the group the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{2-3} alkyl, wherein C_{2-3} alkyl taken together with N of R^{22} can form a saturated heterocycle, which heterocycle is optionally substituted with OH or aryl or an amino acid residue;
- each R^{25} or R^{26} is absent or is selected from the group consisting of of H, C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-4} alkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl (such as cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, C_{5-10} bicycloalkyl or adamantyl); C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl; (C_{3-8} cycloalkyl)-C_{1-3} alkyl; aryl, such

as phenyl; 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring, such as pyridyl; alkylaryl, such as benzyl; and each of said C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl, (C_{3-8} cycloalkyl)-C_{1-3} alkyl, C_{5-10} bicycloalkyl, adamantyl, phenyl, pyridyl and benzyl is optionally substituted with 1-4 of each of C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, halo, CH_2OH, oxybenzyl, and OH; and heterocyclic ring having 3 to 7 carbon atoms, preferably a saturated heterocyclic ring wherein the heteroatoms are S, S(O), or $S(O)_2$ separated from the imidazopyridyl ring nitrogen atom by at least 2 heterocyclic ring carbon atoms., provided that either R^{25} or R^{26} is hydrogen, typically R^{25} or R^{26} is cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl; provided that if the compound is substituted at R^{25} or R^{26}, either R^2 or R^4 is selected from (=O), (=S), and (=NR^{27}); and

- R^{27} is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-18} alkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, (C_{3-10} cycloalkyl)-C_{1-6} alkyl; aryl; and arylalkyl, such as benzyl; and,
- YR^1 is not hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl

or an isomer or a solvate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

with the provisos that, in formula (A):

(a) the substituent R^1 does not form an azabicyclo group, more particularly not 5-thia-1-aza-bicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-8-one;

and with the proviso that the imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative is not one of:

(b) [5-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl]methylamine;

(c)(i) 5-(4-chlorophenylmethyl)-2-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine, including its dihydrochloride salt;

(c)(ii) 5-(4-chlorophenylmethyl)-2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;

(d)(i) 5-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-ium bromide;

(d)(ii) 4-[5-(2-{4-[bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-methyl]-piperazin-1-yl}-ethyl)-5H-

imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl]phenol;

(d)(iii) 4-[5-(3-{4-[bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-methyl]-piperazin-1-yl}-propyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl]phenol;

(e)(i) 2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)-*5H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl]-acetamide;

(e)(ii) N^2-[2-[2-(3-nitrophenyl)-*5H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl]-acetyl]-N^2-isopropyl-glycinamide;

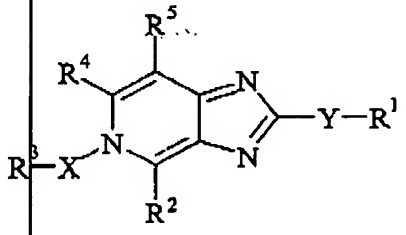
(e)(iii) N^2-[2-[2-phenyl-*5H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl]-acetyl]-N^2-isopropyl-glycinamide;

(e)(iv) N^2-[2-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-*5H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl]-acetyl]-N^2-isopropylglycinamide.

32. (New) A compound according to claim 31, wherein YR^1 is not an unsubstituted C_{3-10} cycloalkyl.

33. (New) A compound according to claim 31, wherein R^{25} and R^{26} are hydrogen.

34. (New) An imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative of formula (I) :



I

wherein:

- R^1 is selected from hydrogen; aryl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6, heterocyclic ring unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6, C_{3-10} cycloalkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6 and C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl unsubstituted or substituted with one or more R^6;
- Y is selected from the group consisting of a single bond , O; $S(O)_m$; NR^{11}; and a divalent, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted C_1.C_{10} hydrocarbon group optionally including one or more heteroatoms in the main chain, said heteroatoms being selected from the groups consisting of O, S, and N; such as C_{1-6} alkylene, C_{2-6} alkenylene, C_{2-6} alkynylene, $-O(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-O-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$, $-S-(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-S-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$, $-NR^{11}-(CH_2)_{1-5}-$, $-(CH_2)_{1-4}-NR^{11}-(CH_2)_{1-4}-$and C_{3-10} cycloalkylidene;
- Each R^2 and R^4 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; halogen; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^9$; $C(=S)R^9$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyloxy; C_{3-10} cycloalkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring;
- X is selected from the group consisting of a divalent, saturated or unsaturated, substituted or unsubstituted C_1.C_{10} hydrocarbon group optionally including one or more heteroatoms in the main chain (provided that the heteroatom is not linked to N of the nucleus), said heteroatoms being selected from the group consisting of O, S, and N; such as C_{1-6} alkylene, (for example $-CH_2-$, $-CH(CH_3)-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2$), $-(CH_2)_{2-4}-O-(CH_2)_{2-4}-$, $-(CH_2)_{2-4}-S-(CH_2)_{2-4}-$, $-(CH_2)_{2-4}-NR^{10}-(CH_2)_{2-4}-$, C_{3-10} cycloalkylidene, C_{2-6} alkenylene (such as $-CH=CH-CH_2-$), C_{2-6} alkynylene;
- m is any integer from 0 to 2;

- R^3 is selected from the group consisting of aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; aryl-NR^{10}-; 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring;; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, aryl-NR^{10}-, 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring is optionally substituted with one or more R^{17}; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, oxycycloalkyl or thiocycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl with the proviso that the double bond cannot be adjacent to a nitrogen; H with the proviso that if X is an alkylene, an alkenylene or an alkynylene, then X comprises at least 5 carbon atoms;
- R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; halogen; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^9$; $C(=S)R^9$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyloxy; C_{3-10} cycloalkylthio C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring;
- Each R^6 and R^{17} is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, C_{3-10} cycloalkenyl or C_{3-10} cycloalkynyl; halogen; OH; CN; NO_2; NR^7R^8; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^9$; $C(=S)R^9$; SH; aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; arylalkyloxy (optionally a oxybenzyl); arylalkylthio (optionally a benzylthio); 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring; C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, arylalkyl, arylalkyloxy (optionally a oxybenzyl), arylalkylthio (optionally a benzylthio), 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring, C_{1-18} hydroxyalkyl is optionally substituted with 1 or more R^{19}.

- Each R^7 and R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{1-18} alkenyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring; $C(=O)R^{12}$; $C(=S)R^{12}$; an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof; alternatively, R^7 and R^8, together with the nitrogen to which they are attached, combine to form a 5-6 membered heterocyclic ring;
- Each R^9 and R^{18} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; OH; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; $NR^{15}R^{16}$; aryl an amino acid residue linked through an amino group thereof;
- Each R^{10} and R^{11} is independently selected from the group the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{1-18} alkenyl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; aryl; $C(=O)R^{12}$; 5-6 membered heterocyclin ring; an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof;
- R^{12} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; an amino acid residue linked through an amino group thereof;
- Each R^{13} and R^{14} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; $C(=O)R^{12}$; $C(=S)R^{12}$; an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof;
- Each R^{15} and R^{16} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; an amino acid residue linked through a carboxyl group thereof;

- R^{19} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy, preferably C_{1-6} alkoxy; C_{1-18} alkylthio; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkynyl; halogen; OH; CN; NO_2; $NR^{20}R^{21}$; OCF_3; haloalkyl; $C(=O)R^{22}$; $C(=S)R^{22}$; SH; $C(=O)N(C_{1-6}$ alkyl), $N(H)S(O)(O)(C_{1-6}$ alkyl); aryl; aryloxy; arylthio; arylalkyl; and each of said aryl, aryloxy, arylthio, arylalkyl substituted with 1 or more halogens, particularly a phenyl substituted with 1-2 halogens; hydroxyalkyl; 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic, oxyheterocyclic or thioheterocyclic ring each unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or more halogens;
- Each R^{20} and R^{21} is independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{1-6} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{2-18} alkynyl; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl; $C(=O)R^{12}$, $C(=S)R^{12}$;
- R^{22} is independently selected from H; OH; C_{1-18} alkyl; C_{2-18} alkenyl; C_{1-18} alkoxy; $NR^{23}R^{24}$; aryl; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, ; C_{4-10} cycloalkenyl;
- Each R^{23} and R^{24} is independently selected from the group the group consisting of H; C_{1-18} alkyl, preferably C_{2-3} alkyl, wherein C_{2-3} alkyl taken together with N of R^{22} can form a saturated heterocycle, which heterocycle is optionally substituted with OH or aryl or an amino acid residue.
- YR^1 is not hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl

or an isomer or a solvate thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with the provisos that, in formula (I):

(a) the substituent R^1 does not form an azabicyclo group, more particularly not 5-thia-1-aza-bicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-en-8-one;

and with the proviso that the imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative is not one of:

(b) [5-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl]methylamine;

(c)(i) 5-(4-chlorophenylmethyl)-2-(piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine,

including its dihydrochloride salt;

(c)(ii) 5-(4-chlorophenylmethyl)-2-(4-methyl-piperazin-1-ylmethyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;

(d)(i) 5-(2-piperidin-1-yl-ethyl)-2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-ium bromide;

(d)(ii) 4-[5-(2-{4-[bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-methyl]-piperazin-1-yl}-ethyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl]phenol;

(d)(iii) 4-[5-(3-{4-[bis-(4-fluorophenyl)-methyl]-piperazin-1-yl}-propyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-2-yl]phenol;

(e)(i) 2-[2-(4-methylphenyl)-*5H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl]-acetamide;

(e)(ii) N^2-[2-[2-(3-nitrophenyl)-*5H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl]-acetyl]-N^2-isopropyl-glycinamide;

(e)(iii) N^2-[2-[2-phenyl-*5H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl]-acetyl]-N^2-isopropyl-glycinamide;

(e)(iv) N^2-[2-[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-*5H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl]-acetyl]-N^2-isopropylglycinamide.

35. (New) A compound according to claim 34 wherein

- R^1 is selected from hydrogen; phenyl unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 R^6; 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic ring, optionally benzo-added, containing 1-3 heteroatoms selected from the group O, N, and S, unsubstituted or substituted with 1-2 R^6; 1-naphthyl unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 R^6; 2-naphthyl unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3 R^6; C_{3-10} cycloalkyl, particularly C_{3-7} cycloalkyl; C_{5-7} cycloalkenyl with the proviso that the double bond cannot be adjacent to a nitrogen;
- Y is selected from the group $-(CH_2)_{0-6}-$; O; S; NR^{11}; -$CH(CH_3)$-; -OCH_2-; -

CH_2O-; -OCH_2-CH_2-; -CH_2-CH_2O-; -CH_2-O-CH_2-; -$(CH_2)_{0-5}$-S-; -S-$(CH_2)_{0-5}$-; -$(CH_2)_{0-2}$-S-$(CH_2)_{0-2}$-; -NR^{11}-$(CH_2)_{0-5}$-; -$(CH_2)_{0-5}$-NR^{11}-; -CH_2-NR^{11}-CH_2-; -$C(CH_3)_2$-; (cis or trans) -CH_2-CH=CH-; (cis or trans) –CH=CH-CH_2-

36. (New) A compound according to claim 31 or 34 wherein if Y is a bond and R1 is an aryl, this aryl in not phenyl para-substituted with OH and optionally further substituted with methyl, methoxy, nitro, diethylamino, Cl, Br, or F.

37. (New) A compound according to claims 31 or 34, wherein YR^1 is not phenyl para-substituted with OH.

38. (New) A compound according to claims 31 or 34, wherein R^1 is a naphthenyl.

39. (New) A compound according to claims 31 or 34, wherein R^3 is selected from an aryl unsubstituted or substituted with 1-3R^6, wherein at least one R^6 is halo or C_{1-6} alkyl.

40. (New) A compound according to claim 31, wherein either R^2 or R^4 is O and either R^{25} or R^{26} is cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl.

41. (New) A compound according to claims 31 or 34, wherein in the imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine derivative, X is –CH_2-; -$CH(CH_3)$-; -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-; -OCH_2-CH_2-; -CH=CH-CH_2-; and/or R2, R4 and R5 are hydrogen.

42. (New) A compound according to claims 31 or 34, wherein the 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring is selected from pyridine, pyridazine, pyrimidine, pyrazine, furan, tetrahydrofuran, thiofuran, thiophene, pyrrole, tetrahydropyrrole, oxazole, imidazole, thiazole, isoxazole, pyrazole and isothiazole.

43. (New) A compound according to claim 31, selected from the group consisting of

2-(2,6-Difluorophenyl)-5-[(2,6-difluorophenyl)methyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-Benzyl-2-(2,6-difluorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(2,6-Difluorophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-Benzyl-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

2-Phenyl-5-(3-phenylpropyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(2-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(3-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(2-Methoxyphenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(3-Methoxyphenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Methoxyphenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Methylphenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(2-Fluorophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(3-Fluorophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Fluorophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(2-Methylphenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(3-Methylphenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

4-[(2-Phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridin-5-yl)methyl]-benzonitrile

2-Phenyl-5-[[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]methyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine hydrochloride

5-[(5-Chloro-2-thienyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-(2-Naphthalenylmethyl)-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

2-Phenyl-5-(4-phenylbutyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

2-Phenyl-5-(1-phenylethyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-(1-Naphthalenylmethyl)-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

2-(2,6-Difluorophenyl)-5-[(2,4-difluorophenyl)methyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-chlorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(4-chlorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-pyridinyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-thienyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(1-naphthalenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-naphthalenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Iodophenyl)methyl]-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(3-fluorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(3-methylphenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine 5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine 5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-(3-bromophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-2-(3-bromophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-2-(3-chlorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;

5-(2-Phenoxy-ethyl)-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-(3-Phenyl-prop-2-en-1-yl)-2-phenyl-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

2-(3-Bromophenyl)-5-[(4-iodophenyl)methyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine

5-[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-[(phenylthio)methyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine 5-

[(4-Bromophenyl)methyl]-2-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine
5-([1,1'-Biphenyl]-4-ylmethyl)-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine 5-[(4-Chlorophenyl)methyl]-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine
2-(2-Fluorophenyl)-5-[(4-iodophenyl)methyl]-5*H*-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine
5-[[4-(1,1-Dimethylethyl)phenyl]methyl]-2-(2-fluorophenyl)-5H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine.

44. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claims 31 or 34 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

45. (New) Method for treatment or prevention of a disease comprising the step of administering an effective amount a compound according to claims 31 or 34.

46. (New) Method according to claim 45 wherein said disease is a viral infection.

47. (New) A composition according to claim 44 wherein the composition or medicament is suitable for administration orally, intranasally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intradermally, intravenously, intra-arterially, parenterally or by catheterization.

48. (New) A composition for separate, combined or sequential use in the treatment or prophylaxis of an anti-viral infection, comprising:

(a) one or more compound(s) according to claim 31; and

(b) one or more compound(s) effective in the treatment or prophylaxis of viral

infections, including Flaviviral or Picornaviral enzyme inhibitors, in proportions such as to provide a synergistic effect in the said treatment or prophylaxis.

49. (New) A composition according to claim 44, wherein said one or more compounds effective in the treatment or prophylaxis of viral infections are interferon alpha or ribavirin.

50. (New) A composition according to claim 48, wherein said one or more compounds effective in the treatment or prophylaxis of viral infections are interferon alpha or ribavirin.